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The revision itself follows, the genera in each family being taken up alphabetically. Details of all kinds abound in notes, etc., and are often very interesting (e. g., notes on proper spelling, on botanical Latin, etc.). But no confusion is produced by them or the revisions of genus-limits and monographs scattered through the work. One thing might be mentioned. He unites *Aster* and *Solidago* and intermediate groups in the genus *Aster*, giving quite a full discussion of his reasons. He also works out the proper species-name combinations whenever he changes a genus-name. Many things might be commented upon did space permit, but the introduction indicates the nature of all the changes.

Just what the effect of the work will be cannot be foretold. Many of the suggestions will hardly be adopted. Others, it is to be hoped, will be. As the most thorough piece of work yet done in a direction now receiving much attention it must have some influence. Certainly the admirable discussion in the introduction of the defects of our present nomenclature and the causes of them cannot fail to have considerable effect, and constitutes the most valuable part of the work. The author appears in the introduction as a keen and severe, yet on occasion, appreciative critic, and if we are to believe his statement that he worked from thirteen to fourteen hours a day for the last three years, no one can charge him with haste, or say as he does of Durand, that he has not put time enough upon his work.

One acquires a good deal of prejudice against the book on first glancing it over, which disappears on a more thorough reading of the introduction. Paradox as it is, the only way to attain an unchangeable and uniform nomenclature is to make changes now with an iron hand. "Unambiguous rules and priority," as he ever says, "are the only sound principles by which we can bring order in [to] nomenclature. The changes necessitated by priority should.....be made as promptly and as thoroughly as possible, and—as we may wish it—if possible at once, in one book.—ROSCOE POUND, *Lincoln, Nebraska, February 8, 1892.*

Literature of Parasites, No. II.—M. Braun. "Die sogenannte freischwimmende Sporocyste." (*Centralblatt f. Bakl. u. Par.* 1891, X 7, p. 215–219.)

In 1885 Prof. Ramsay Wright, of Canada, found a peculiar free-swimming organism which he considered to be a free-swimming sporocyst. Prof. Braun, of Königsberg, recently found some similar organisms, which he traced to *Limnaeus palustris* var. *corvus*. Braun dif-

fers, however, in his interpretation of these organisms from the views advanced by Wright and afterwards accepted by Leuckart, in that he considers that we have in this case not a sporocyst stage but a *cercaria stage*, in which the anterior portion of the body (the *Distoma*) has crawled into its own tail. He has given the name *Cercaria mirabilis* to the larva, but is as yet unable to tell to what species of *Distoma* it belongs. Prof. Braun's view seems to be the correct one, as he examined the organism in various stages of development.

Dr. Raphaël Blanchard, "Histoire Zoologique et Médicale des Téniaïdés du genre *Hymenolepis* (Weinland)." Prof. B. begins with a former review of works on this genus, dwelling at some length on Grassi's experiments, in which the latter showed that *H. murina* has an indirect development *without* change of host.

The embryo enters the villousities of the intestines, where it develops into a cercocystis, which afterwards becomes free in the lumen and develops into the adult tape-worm. This is the only case where it has been demonstrated that a *Tænia* can pass its full development without change of host.

Blanchard's diagnosis of the genus *Hymenolepis* is as follows: Body small, filiform; head small, provided with a retractile rostellum—well developed and armed with a simple crown of 24–30 minute hooks or rudimentary and unarmed; neck long; segments serrated, much wider than long, in number rarely less than 150. Sexual pores marginal, piercing the left border, the ventral face being that which is occupied by the female genital organs. The male genital apparatus contains a very small number of testes, generally but three, two of which lie in the right half of the segment, the third in the left half. Mature segments transformed into a sack full of round or oblongated clear eggs; there are three concentric yet separated egg shells. The internal shell contains the oncosphere (six hooked embryo), possesses no pyriform apparatus, but sometimes shows a papilla at each pole. The larvæ is either a cryptocystis (cercocystis) or a staphycystis. Development is indirect, either without change of host, but with a migration from one organ to another, or more frequently with change of host, the intermediate host being an insect or myriapod.

A list is then given of all the known species (14 according to Blanchard), their hosts, intermediate hosts and larval forms, so far as known. Blanchard is not ready to accept Grassi's view that *H. murina* of the rat and *H. nana* of man are identical.

The latter half of the book is given up to the more purely medical side of the question. Diagnosis, symptoms, treatment, etc.

H. nana has been found in man in Egypt, England, Italy, United States of America and Argentine Republic. *H. diminuta* (*flavopunctata*) in America and Italy.

Complete bibliography of the genus follows.

The work is well done and like most of his work exhausts the subject up to date.—C. W. STILES, *Washington, D. C.*